AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 3. (Cancelled).

4. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different shape, size and/or well depth so that center axes and bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

5. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different well depth so that bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

6. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having a different number of wells so that center axes of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

7. (New) A set of adapters, each of which is to be held by an auto sampler being movable in at least a vertical direction in a capillary array electrophoresis apparatus with a plurality of capillaries having sample injection top ends which are arranged in alignment, and each said adapter further permits mounting a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample into which the sample injection top ends are immersed when the auto sampler is moved upward,

wherein the set of adapters is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different shape, size and/or well depth so that center axes and bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

8. (New) A set of adapters each of which is to be held by an auto sampler being movable in at least a vertical direction in a capillary array electrophoresis apparatus with a plurality of capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment, and each said adapter further permits mounting a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample into which the sample injection top ends are immersed when the auto sampler is moved upward,

wherein the set of adapters is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different well depth so that bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

9. (New) A set of adapters each of which is to be held by an auto sampler being movable in at least a vertical direction in a capillary array electrophoresis apparatus with a plurality of capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment, and each said adapter further permits mounting a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample into which the sample injection top ends are immersed when the auto sampler is moved upward,

wherein the set of adapters is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having a different number of wells so that center axes of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

10. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

11. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

12. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

13. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 7, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

14. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 8, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

15. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 9, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

16. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

17. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

18. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

19. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 7, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

20. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 8, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

21. (New) A set of adapters according to claim 9, wherein the auto sample includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

22. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder which is permitted to reform a deformed sample plate.

23. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to reform a deformed sample plate.

24. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to reform a deformed sample plate.

25. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.

26. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.

27. (New) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.